Bacon Academy
Athletic Complex Presentation

February 13, 2024

Bacon Academy Campus History:

- Bacon Academy was built in 1993
  - 18 total teams, varsity and sub varsity
  - 405 students
  - One grass field with track
  - One grass baseball field
  - One grass softball field
  - Tennis courts

Current Bacon Academy:

- Enrollment of 600
  - Football was added in 1999
  - Girls and Boys Lacrosse was added in 2008
  - Athletic complex has not changed since 1993

Participation and Usage

507 students participate in athletics over the 3 seasons, with many multiple season athletes

Spring 2023 - 194 athletes

Fall 2023 - 172 athletes

Winter 2024: - 141 athletes

Required maintenance for grass fields

Annual Field Maintenance Cost for Bacon Academy **$35,883 per year**

- 26 Weeks a year March 15th -June 15th and August 15th -November 15th.
  The rate for each Crew member is $25/hour.
- Game Field Full Prep and Paint (5 times a year)
  4 crew/ full day; $25x8 = $200 x 4 crew = $800 x 5 times annually = $ 4,000
- Weekly Mowing
  2 crew/ full day; $25x8 = $200 x 2 = $400 x 26 weeks = $10,400
- Weekly Paint/ Touch up
  2 crew/ half day; $25x4 = $100 x 2 = $200 x 26 weeks = $ 5,200
- Annual supplies (2023-2024) (Paint and Paint supplies) = $16,283

Implications on student play based on fields:

- 2012: Boys Soccer could not host the state tournament games. Due to field conditions, the games were relocated to Eastern CT University.
- 2019: Girls Softball could not play a single game on campus due to field conditions.
- 2019: Boys Lacrosse could only play 2 home games on campus due to field conditions, rather than the normal 8 matches. BA needed to rent Connecticut College for two state tournament games as a result.
- All spring sports are delayed to start at least 2-3 weeks each year due to poor field conditions. At least 5-10 practice days are lost in fall and spring seasons.
- Lacrosse and Football have rented space at $250 per hour at a facility in Montville for early season practices.

Homecoming Game
October 21, 2023

Photos courtesy of Rachel Blakely

Advantages of Turf Access

- Fewer weather related cancellations
- Eliminates wear and tear around high use areas of the field
- Allows on time start to the season, regardless of weather
- The ability to offer regularly schedule access to WJ and youth teams

Benefit of Lights

- Extends the use of a field by 50%
- Later start time will help parent and community members support student athletes
- Allows more facility use for youth leagues
- Allows us to comply with CIAC post season regulations
- Will allow us to provide a safe place for fitness activities at times of day when daylight is shorter
- Complies with CIAC football safety regulations
- Accommodates football calendar in the late season

DRG D comparison

- 21 out of 26 schools in the DRG have turf field(s) - (81%)
  - New Milford and New Haven have 2 fields each
- 23 out of 26 schools have lighted fields
- The only other school without turf and without lights is East Granby

Community Perspectives

Dave Shea, longtime teacher and coach:

I have had a long and rewarding coaching career at Bacon Academy. We have had many successful, hardworking teams which we are very proud of, but I have seen very little improvement in our athletic facilities.

Our facilities and fields are near the poorest in the ECC and CIAC. It's an embarrassment to our students and parents. Our fields are not up to 2024 standards. It is obvious Colchester needs to catch up. We have the leadership in place to get the job done. Let the people vote! (tax payers)

Let's Do It!

Ron Wotus, Bacon Academy Class of 1979
Coach for the San Francisco Giants

“Providing a multipurpose turf baseball field with lights at Bacon Academy would be a tremendous asset for Bacon Academy and the Colchester Community. It would allow the Bobcats to practice and play in a variety of weather conditions that the unpredictable New England weather provides in late fall and early spring. Bacon Academy will gain a multipurpose facility that can be used day and night by varsity teams and local youth teams—thus benefiting the entire Colchester community.”

Jeff Mathieu, Former Bacon Academy Principal and Superintendent

“During my tenure on the CIAC Board of Control from 2004-2010, I can honestly tell you that Bacon Academy Athletics is viewed around the state as having the highest standard of quality programs with numerous Conference and State Championships in various sports. The program facilities certainty do not match the tremendous dedication these young athletes deserve nor reflect the pride of the town of Colchester. Field space has always been an issue in both the youth leagues and on the interscholastic level. It is with the utmost urgency this condition be addressed and acted upon.”

Ron Goldstein, former Board of Ed chair

“We’ve long recognized and discussed the need for improved athletic fields and facilities. I remember attending meetings back fifteen or more years ago, as students, coaches, parents and community members were all advocating for a turf field and lights. Since then, as our athletic programs have continued to grow — and to achieve continuing successes! - the needs have only intensified.”

Don Levine, Trustee of Old Bacon Academy, retired CPS PE/Health teacher

“We need to improve, upgrade, and maintain our facilities….It’s highly important to have available facilities that we are proud of, that we can showcase as part of our great community.”

Any Questions?